

that the amendment then be agreed to. Prior to that, if it is agreeable with Senator FITZGERALD, Senator ASHCROFT wants to have 5 minutes to make a statement. I ask unanimous consent that prior to that, Senator ASHCROFT have 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

#### NOMINATION OF RONNIE WHITE

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Arizona for affording me this opportunity to make some remarks regarding the vote on the nomination of Ronnie White.

Yesterday, in accordance with the unanimous consent agreement entered into last week, we set aside substantially over an hour to debate not only the White nomination but a number of other nominations which came before the Senate today. I was here for that debate, I engaged in that debate, and I outlined my opposition to Judge White, not my opposition based on anything personal or based on my distaste in any way for the judge, but based on my real reservations about his record as it relates to law enforcement.

After the conclusion of the vote today, there were a number of individuals who secured integrals of time to speak about that nomination and about that vote and raised questions that more properly should have been raised in the debate, and, secondly, deserve a response. So I come to respond in that respect.

I want to explain why I believe Judge White should not have been confirmed, and I believe the Senate acted favorably and appropriately in protecting the strong concerns raised by law enforcement officials.

The National Sheriffs Association expressed their very serious opposition to the nomination of Judge White. The Missouri Federation of Chiefs of Police expressed their opposition. The Missouri Sheriffs Association raised strong concerns and asked for a very serious consideration. In my conferences with law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judges, they raised serious concerns; so that when those who come to the floor today talk about this nomination in a context that is personal rather than professional and is political rather than substantive, I think they miss the point.

There are very serious matters addressed in his record that deserve the attention of the Senate and which, once having been reviewed by Members of the Senate, would lead Senators to the conclusion that, indeed, the Senate did the right thing.

Judge White's sole dissent in the Missouri v. Johnson, a brutal cop killer, an individual who killed three law enforcement officials over several hours,

holding a small town in Missouri in a terrified condition, that opinion which sought to create new ground for allowing convicted killers who had the death penalty ordered in their respect, allowing them new ground for new trials, and the like, is something that ought to trouble us. We do not need judges with a tremendous bent toward criminal activity or with a bent toward excusing or providing second chances or opportunities for those who have been accused in those situations.

Missouri v. Kinder is another case where he was the sole dissenter, a case of murder and assault, murder with a lead pipe, the defendant was seen leaving the scene of the crime with the lead pipe and DNA evidence confirming the presence of the defendant with the person murdered.

The judge in that case wrote a dissent saying that the case was contaminated by a racial bias of the trial judge because the trial judge had indicated that he opposed affirmative action and had switched parties based on that.

Another case, Missouri v. Damask, a drug checkpoint case. The sole dissent in the case was from Judge White who would have expanded substantially the rights of defendants to object to searches and seizures.

I believe that law enforcement officials had an appropriate, valid, reasonable concern. That concern was appropriately recognized and reflected in the vote of the Senate. Not only Missouri needs judges, but the entire country needs judges whose law enforcement experience is such that it sends a signal that they are reliable and will support appropriate law enforcement.

I am grateful to have had this opportunity. No time was expected for debate on this issue today, and as an individual who was involved in this matter, I am pleased to have had this opportunity. I thank the Senate. I thank the Senator from Arizona for helping make this time available to me.

I yield the floor.

#### AIR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT ACT—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Illinois is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 2264 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1892  
(Purpose: To replace the slot provisions relating to Chicago O'Hare International Airport)

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, I rise on behalf of myself and my colleague from Illinois, Senator DURBIN, to propose an amendment to the amendment proposed by the Presiding Officer himself, Senator GORTON, and Senator ROCKEFELLER. I send the amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Illinois [Mr. FITZGERALD], for himself and Mr. DURBIN, pro-

poses an amendment numbered 2264 to amendment No. 1892.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 5, beginning with "apply—" in line 15, strike through line 19 and insert "apply after December 31, 2006, at LaGuardia Airport or John F. Kennedy International Airport."

On page 8, beginning with line 7, strike through line 17 on page 12 and insert the following:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 417, as amended by subsection (d), is amended by inserting after section 41717 the following:

#### "§41718. Special Rules for Chicago O'Hare International Airport

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation shall grant 30 slot exemptions over a 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Transportation Improvement Act at Chicago O'Hare International Airport.

"(b) EQUIPMENT AND SERVICE REQUIREMENTS.—

"(1) STATE 3 AIRCRAFT REQUIRED.—An exemption may not be granted under this section with respect to any aircraft that is not a Stage 3 aircraft (as defined by the Secretary).

"(2) SERVICE PROVIDED.—Of the exemptions granted under subsection (a)—

"(A) 18 shall be used only for service to underserved markets, of which no fewer than 6 shall be designated as commuter slot exemptions; and

"(B) 12 shall be air carrier slot exemptions.

"(c) PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS.—Before granting exemptions under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

"(1) conduct an environmental review, taking noise into account, and determine that the granting of the exemptions will not cause a significant increase in noise;

"(2) determine whether capacity is available and can be used safely and, if the Secretary so determines then so certify;

"(3) give 30 days notice to the public through publication in the Federal Register of the Secretary's intent to grant the exemptions; and

"(4) consult with appropriate officers of the State and local government on any related noise and environmental issues.

"(d) UNDERSERVED MARKET DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'service to underserved markets' means passenger air transportation service to an airport that is a nonhub airport or a small hub airport (as defined in paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively, of section 41731(a))."

(2) 3-year report.—The Secretary shall study and submit a report 3 years after the first exemption granted under section 41718(a) of title 49, United States Code, is first used on the impact of the additional slots on the safety, environment, noise, access to underserved markets, and competition at Chicago O'Hare International Airport.

On page 19, strike lines 10 and 11.

On page 19, line 12, strike "(B)" and insert "(A)".

On page 19, line 13, strike "(C)" and insert "(B)".

On page 19, line 15, strike "(D)" and insert "(C)".

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, will the distinguished Senator yield without losing his right to the floor?

Mr. FITZGERALD. Yes, I will yield.

Mr. BYRD. I ask unanimous consent that following the Senator's statement, I be recognized to speak for not